Quality of Vaccines used under Immunisation Programme

514. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government arc aware that useless vaccines are being pushed into the children under immunisation programmes in Bihar because most of the aquipment provided to the primary health centre and sub-centres to keep the vaccines refrigerated remain out of order;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) The breakdown rate of cold chain equipment is constantly monitored. Bihar has reported a breakdown rate of 3.81% as on 31.S.9S as against 1.63% for national average.

(c) The Government of India provides replacement of beyond repair units, spare parts, cash, assistance for cold chain maintenance and salary support for refrigerator mechine at the rate of one mechine per district.

Consumption of Tobacco

515. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of persons die every year due to consumption of tobacco;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to initiate a campaign with a view to create general awareness among the people regarding ill-effects of consumption of tobacco; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) It is estimated that about 8 lakh persons in India die every year due to tobacco related diseases.

(b) and (c) The Government have initiated several measures like education about the ill effects of tobacco, prohibition of smoking in public places, besides a statutory warning on cigarette packs that smoking is injurious to health.

Plantation of fruit-bearing trees on wasteland

516. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH: SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme under their consideration for alloting wasteland and forest land to farmers in rural areas for planting fruit-bearing trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are also proposed to be allocated for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPNMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) The distribution of Government Wastelands is carried out by various States on criteria fixed by the State Government while use of forest land is governed by the provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The utilisation of wasteland allotted is a decision that rests with the allottee, who would, based on the type of land and available resources, decide on the appropriate land use, which may include planting of fruit bearing species.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of the position stated in part (a) of the reply to the question.